

# THE FOOTBALL LETTER

1968 *Pre-View*

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## Dear Alumnus:

Joe Paterno makes an honest effort to be a realist as he approaches the third chapter in his carefully designed plans to bring "greatness" to Nittany Lion gridiron fortunes.

Two years ago the young coach was understandably cautious as he started his first season; last year, with a 5-and-5 experience under his belt, he was predictably wary. Now, as the reigning Eastern champion, while ready to defend his laurels with a fierce competitiveness that is his predominant characteristic, he finds intolerable the assumption of many experts that Penn State is a shoo-in for the Lambert silver.

Like any coach, Paterno keenly perceives the "imponderables" of football, the factors neither brains nor brawn can overcome. For instance, there are the Three Knees. During the past year surgery has been performed on these most vital joints of Bob Campbell, Mike Reid, and Don Abbey—not ordinary players. The loss of any one could be a disaster.

Then there is the nearly perennial problem of the untested quarterback. Present heir apparent is Junior Chuck Burkhart, who has the full confidence of his coach, but has not yet started a game. The pressures on this young man will be tremendous.

Finally, there is the opposition. Coach Paterno points out that not a single one of our opponents expects a weaker team. Careful scrutiny of their prospects, including advance material prepared by the various Sports Information Directors, supports this view. In fact, if one were not accustomed to the summer dreams of the PR men, one might conclude that Penn State cannot escape finishing up on national television December 7 with a 0-10 record. A few cases in point:

Pittsburgh: "He (Coach Hart) has gained the reputation as one of the finest recruiters in major college football. And, the recruiting should begin paying off this fall with wins."

UCLA: "It is safe to assume that UCLA will always field a winning and exciting football team under the astute Tommy Prothro—and 1968 figures to be no exception."

Syracuse: "The Orange ranked first in the nation last fall in kickoff defense, second in rushing defense, fourth in total defense. The defensive unit remains pretty much intact. Through two decades of greatness, Coach Schwartzwalder has produced 18 straight non-losing seasons. The 19th should be a reality."



**MY, WHAT BIG HANDS YOU HAVE!**, says Carolyn Kwalick as she fights a losing battle of Indian wrestling against the huge right hand and arm of her husband, Ted Kwalick. The Lion senior caught 33 passes during the regular season last fall and became the first junior in Penn State history to win first all-America honors.

West Virginia: "A blend of sophomore talent and the experience of 21 returning lettermen could provide the best season yet for Coach Jim Carlen."

Navy: Despite the loss of QB John Cartwright, a superlative passer, Coach Bill Elias says Navy's passing attack "could be better this fall than a year ago." He goes on to report that with four veteran backs returning "our running game is a strong suit and our overall team speed is better than any of my previous seasons at the Academy. We will also be better defensively."

Coach Paterno notes that West Virginia may be the sleeping giant of area teams. The Mountaineer freshmen have beaten ours for the past two seasons. He thinks Miami will have one of the South's greatest elevens. Ted Hendricks, giant all-America defensive end, is one of Florida's leading tourist attractions.

Of all the coming opponents, Army's press advances are the least sanguine. Tom Cahill (Coach of the Year in 1966) points out that both of his lines have been decimated by graduation. The Cadets, however, have the best fullback in the East on record (Charley Jarvis), and a sophomore whirlwind named Billy Hunter who scored 108 points for an undefeated Plebe team (9-0). Army has won

four of the past five games against us. Enough said.

Losses from last year were not overwhelming, but some key replacements must be made in addition to quarterback where Tom Sherman set six University records in 1967. Jack Curry is gone and he held just about all records as a receiver at split end. Current front runners here are Leon Angevine, senior, and Greg Edmonds, sophomore. Three all-East selections must be replaced: Tim Montgomery (safety), Rich Buzin (offensive tackle), and Bill Lenkaitis (center). Neal Smith, Dave Bradley, and Warren Koegel, a sophomore, hold these positions as of now.

Our own press advances indicate that Coach Paterno's principal worries evolve around his quarterback, interior offensive line, and lack of overall depth. There are some murmurings about "lack of defensive size," but it is a known fact that our recruiters have sacrificed size during the past few years to gain defensive speed and mobility. Obviously, they would like to have both. (Paterno: "We're still a step away from real speed.")

In addition to Koegel (Seaford, N.Y.) on offense, two other sophomores are possible defensive starters—Jack Ham, from Johnstown, and Mike Smith, Annville. Together

## SCHEDULE

September 21;	Navy	(H)
September 28;	Kansas State	(H)
	(Band Day)	
October 5;	West Virginia	(A)
October 12;	UCLA	(A)
October 26;	Boston College	(A)
November 2;	Army	(H)
	(Homecoming)	
November 9;	Miami	(H)
November 16;	Maryland	(A)
November 23;	Pittsburgh	(A)
December 7;	Syracuse	(H)

with Edmonds (Charleston, W. Va.) this trio is generally considered the best of the newcomers, although several other promising offensive backs were kept out of spring drills because of injuries.

What is responsible for Penn State's generally high position among the potential football leaders of 1968? (1) The experts like to go with a winner and you're still the eastern champions until someone knocks you off; (2) loss of only half a dozen key players after an 8-2 season; (3) presence of a bonafide all-America player in Ted Kwalick, first junior ever to win this honor in Lion football history; (4) running halfbacks as good as Charlie Pittman and Bob Campbell; (5) defensive super-stars as fine as Jim Kates, Mike Reid, Steve Smear, and Denny Onkotz; (6) confidence in the ability and leadership qualities of Coach Paterno and his staff.

As most alumni know, Homecoming was originally scheduled for October 19, which is now an open date. Homecoming was switched to the Army game, November 2. When the Syracuse (October 19) game was moved to December 7 to accommodate the TV network, some grumbling was heard among alumni (many of whom couldn't switch their hotel or motel reservations to the new date) and there were raised eyebrows by those who were unsophisticated enough to think that universities (public or private) don't need or shouldn't take television money.

It isn't altogether fair to accuse the athletic department of putting the dollar ahead of spectator comfort and player welfare without considering *how* the television dollars are used. They will *not* be used merely to get more football players, to win more games, to build up gate receipts, to get more players. Football receipts at Penn State help to pay for the other intercollegiate sports; they build tennis courts, construct bowling alleys and intramural athletic fields; they built the ice skating rink and contributed heavily to the Stone Valley Recreation Area. Beaver Stadium, built in 1960, was completely paid for in 1967—something of an intercollegiate record. Television and Bowl games are part of a strong football program; if you're really involved, you take part in these phases of the game and you don't turn down TV exposure which enables a vast number of alumni to witness the games who would have no chance to attend in person.

Army at Homecoming; the Penn State-Syracuse Winter Carnival at Beaver Stadium on National TV; the final Paterno-Prothro meeting from UCLA on Regional TV (which will include the East); Miami in November; and Navy for the opening game. What a season!

We opened with Navy a year ago and suffered noticeably from our NCAA-enforced shorter practice season. Institutions whose classes started earlier were given additional calendar dates to get ready; presumably the late starters could even things up with two practices per day. The inequity has now been eliminated. All universities are limited to 29 practice sessions, no more. Players must not wear pads for the first three days, a precaution against early season injuries. Our coaches are strongly of the opinion that all institutions should have a longer time for physical conditioning to avoid the tempta-

tion, in fact, the necessity of scrimmaging too early.

With West Virginia voluntarily resigning from the Southern Conference and becoming in effect an Eastern Independent, the East's Big Five may soon turn into the Big Six. The Mountaineers have longtime, spirited rivalries with Pitt, Syracuse, and Penn State; rarely play Army or Navy. While Pitt has lagged somewhat, Coach Dave Hart's strong recruiting practices should soon pay off. Watch the Big Six in the young seventies! This could be the Nation's strongest mythical conference.

Faithfully, your correspondent,

*Ridge Riley*

#### TENTATIVE 'DEPTH LISTING'

(In order of starting probability)

##### Offense

Split Ends: Leon Angevine '69, Peasleeville, N.Y. (6-2, 195); Greg Edmonds '71, Charleston, W. Va. (6-3, 190); Carl Anderson '69, Franklin (6-1, 185).

Left Tackles: John Kulka '69, Ludlow (5-4, 225); Bob Yowell '69, Alexandria, Va. (6-2, 226); Vic Surma '71, Mt. Lebanon (6-4, 232).

Left Guards: Gary Williams '70, Reading (6-1, 220); Tom Jackson '70, Scotch Plains, N.J. (6-3, 220); Bob Holuba '71, Norwood, N.J. (6-3, 215).

Centers: Warren Koegel '71, Seaford, N.Y. (6-4, 230); Ted Sebastianelli '69, Peckville (6-2, 222); Paul Hrabovsky '71, Springdale (6-2, 222).

Right Guards: Dave Rakiecki '70, Kane (6-3, 195); Charles Zapiec '71, Philadelphia (6-2, 210); Ron Pavlechko '71, Youngstown, O. (6-1, 212).

Right Tackles: Dave Bradley '69, Burnham (6-4, 240); Dan Mercinko '70, Youngstown, Pa. (6-3, 225); Pat Smith '70, Annville (6-2, 230).

Tight Ends: Ted Kwalick '69, McKees Rocks (6-4, 230); Tim Horst '69, Ashtabula, O. (6-3, 206); Jim Sample '71, Mackeyville (6-3, 205).

Quarterbacks: Chuck Burkhardt '70, McKees Rocks (6-0, 185); Wally Cirafesi '70, S. Plainfield, N.J. (6-2, 180); Mike Cooper '71, Harrisburg (6-1, 187); Jim Colbert '71, Levittown, Pa. (6-2, 205).

Left Halfbacks: Bob Campbell '69, Apalachin, N.Y. (6-0, 190); Fran Ganter '71, Bethel Park (5-11, 195); Garry Deuel '71, Owego, N.Y. (6-0, 188).

Right Halfbacks: Charlie Pittman '70, Baltimore, Md. (6-1, 190); Joel Ramich '71, Elmira, N.Y. (5-11, 188); George Landis '71, Linwood, N.J. (6-0, 185).

Fullbacks: Tom Cherry '69, Pittsburgh (6-2, 217); Don Abbey '70, S. Hadley Mass. (6-3, 236); Jim McCord '71, Troy (6-2, 210).

##### Defense

Left Ends: Frank Spaziani '69, Clark, N.J. (6-2, 210); George Kulka '70, Ludlow (6-4, 200); Ed Odorisio '70, Latrobe (6-2, 208).

Left Tackles: Jim Kates '70, Plainfield, N.J. (6-1, 225); George Daugherty '69, Irwin (6-5, 230); Marshall Wagner '71, Altoona (6-2, 230).

Right Tackles: Steve Smear '70, Johnstown

(6-1, 218); Gary Carter '71, Bear Lake (6-2, 220); Doug Krenicky '69, S. Plainfield, N.J. (6-4, 235).

Right Ends: Lincoln Lippincott '69, Sullivan's Island, S.C. (6-3, 185); Doug McArthur '71, Pittsburgh (6-2, 223); Ed Stofko '70, Johnstown (6-0, 213).

Outside Left LB: Jack Ham '71, Johnstown (6-2, 205); Steve Prue '71, Albany, N.Y. (6-0, 188); Ken Anderson '70, Barnesboro (6-3, 225).

Inside Left LB: Mike Reid '70, Altoona (6-3, 235); Dave Radakovich '70, West Mifflin (5-11, 206); Tom Templeton '70, Tyrone (6-2, 205).

Outside Right LB: Pete Johnson '70, N. Plainfield, N.J. (6-2, 212); Gary Hull '71, Greenville (6-3, 200); George Atty '71, Pottsville (5-10, 174).

Inside Right LB: Dennis Onkotz '70, Northampton (6-2, 205); Jerry Bulvin '71, South Fork (6-2, 202); Steve Brezna '71, Peely (6-3, 231).

Left Halfbacks: Mike Smith '71, Annville (5-11, 180); Orlando Monceli '70, Nutley, N.J. (5-11, 182).

Right Halfbacks: Paul Johnson '70, Cazenovia, N.Y. (6-0, 183); Terry Stump '71, Mifflintown (6-1, 187).

Safeties: Neal Smith '70, Selinsgrove (5-11, 180); Chuck Pinchotti '71, Rochester, Pa. (5-11, 180).

##### Tri-Captains

John Kulka      Mike Reid      Steve Smear

Notes from the Cuff: *Kickoff* was the first of many pre-season football magazines that flood the market each summer and it had everything but a Blue and White cover. Our Lions were selected first in the East; Kwalick was named to the All-America team and the All-East eleven along with Bradley, Onkotz, Kates, and Spaziani. Opponents on the All-America were Ted Hendricks, Miami defensive end; Mike Ballou, UCLA linebacker; Art Thoms, Syracuse tackle; and Tom Kyasky, Orange defensive halfback . . . Southern sports writers generally take Eastern football lightly. Not so with Tom Siler, veteran Knoxville scribe, who selected his "Top Twenty Teams for 1968," with Penn State sixth. Others in the first ten were: Purdue, Southern California, Notre Dame, Texas A & M, Tennessee, Alabama, UCLA, Texas, and Oklahoma . . . Don't let the Volume Number (31) of the *Football Letter* confuse you since last year we were Volume 54. We're starting out on our own this time after having been numbered in with the *Alumni News*. The *Letter* has been going for 31 seasons.

##### FASTER MAIL SERVICE

This is a reminder that you can receive your Football Letter via first class mail by sending \$1.00 to the Alumni Association, 104 Old Main, University Park, Pa. 16802. The Letter will be mailed Monday afternoon following each game.

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